

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

UPDATED 2014

## ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

## ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

## ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:***

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

## **A. Background**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan (Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics) - Five year update

2. Name of applicant:  
Department of Ecology, Waste 2 Resources and Hazardous Waste & Toxic Reduction Programs
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
600 Desmond Drive, Lacey WA 98503  
Waste 2 Resources Program: Janine Bogar, 360-407-6654, [Janine.bogar@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Janine.bogar@ecy.wa.gov)  
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program: Chris Chapman, 360-407-7160, [Chris.chapman@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Chris.chapman@ecy.wa.gov)
4. Date checklist prepared:  
April 30, 2015
5. Agency requesting checklist:  
Department of Ecology
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
The Department of Ecology will complete the plan update in June 2015. The plan will become effective at that time. Implementation will continue over the next five years.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
State law requires the state solid waste plan be reviewed regularly and updated as needed, and the state hazardous waste plan be updated every five years. The next update is scheduled for 2019.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.  
A SEPA checklist was prepared and a DNS was issued by the Department of Ecology for the State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan (The Beyond Waste Plan) in October 2004 and for the five year update of that plan in November 2009.
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.  
None. Local governments have local solid and hazardous waste plans but they are not dependent on the state plan for content or approval.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
Department of Ecology approval of the State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan Update: Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics.
11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe

certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This plan update is in accordance with statutory directions ([RCW 70.95](#) and [RCW 70.105](#)) that require state solid and hazardous waste plans. These statutes establish a waste management hierarchy that puts reduction highest, followed by recycling and safe disposal. The plan is our means to work towards this hierarchy.

Waste generation in Washington continues to grow. Toxic substances are increasingly prevalent in products and our environment. Washington State is increasing its focus on preventing wastes and toxics, not just on managing them at end-of-life. This requires partnerships with Ecology, local government, business, and the non-profit and education sectors to create new opportunities and markets to eliminate wastes and toxic substances.

The 2009 State plan update, Beyond Waste, will be replaced by the 2015 update: Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics. The structure in the 2015 update of the state solid and hazardous waste plan has changed from the 2004 and 2009 versions; however the key concepts are still addressed. The focus remains on reducing wastes and toxic substances, as well as safely handling wastes. The past and new structures are below:

#### Structure of Current and Past State Waste Plans

2015 State Waste Plan Sections	2004 & 2009 State Waste Plan Sections
1. Managing Hazardous Waste and Materials <i>(includes regulated and small volume hazardous wastes and materials)</i>	1. Industries Wastes ( <i>regulated hazardous wastes</i> )
2. Managing Solid Wastes and Materials <i>(includes organic materials and some building materials)</i>	2. Small Volume Hazardous Materials and Wastes
3. Reducing Impacts of Materials and Products <i>(includes some building materials)</i>	3. Organic Materials
4. Measuring Progress	4. Green Building
5. Providing Outreach and Information	5. Measuring Progress
	6. Current Hazardous Waste Issues
	7. Current Solid Waste Issues

**The five sections in the 2015 State Plan Update are further broken out as follows:**

1. Managing Hazardous Waste and Materials
  - Pollution Prevention
  - Compliance and Compliance Assistance
  - Permitting & Corrective Action
  - Small Volume Hazardous Materials and Wastes (Moderate Risk Waste)
2. Managing Solid Waste and Materials
  - Solid Waste System Issues
  - Solid Waste Materials & Infrastructure
  - Organic Materials & Infrastructure
3. Reducing Impacts of Materials and Products

4. Measuring Progress
5. Providing Outreach and Information

The five sections contain 55 goals and 183 actions to direct work in the state for the next five years. The goals and actions include some on-going work by the Ecology programs as well as new work that needs to be done. For comparison, the 2004 and 2009 state plans contained recommendations and milestones. The 2004 plan had 64 recommendations and 73 milestones; 2009 Plan had 71 recommendations and 94 milestones.

While the name of the State Hazardous and Solid Waste Plan 2015 update changes from “Beyond Waste” to “Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics,” the vision remains the same:

*We can transition to a society where waste is viewed as inefficient, and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated. This will contribute to economic, social and environmental vitality.*

This vision was introduced in the 2004 Beyond Waste plan for the management of solid and hazardous waste in Washington and set for the next thirty years.

**Some key objectives with the 2015 five-year update:**

- More closely align the plan with the needs of local governments and other stakeholders.
- Better incorporate the Sustainable Materials Management focus put forth by EPA.
- Better address all parts of the materials management cycle, including disposal and recycling (end-of- life management) as well as use and production phases.
- Continue to emphasize the connections between waste management and agency priorities on climate, toxics, and water.
- Increase focus on communication and environmental justice.
- Meet legal update requirements.

**A summary of content for each section follows:**

- Section 1, Managing Hazardous Waste and Materials, addresses regulated hazardous waste generators, pollution prevention planners, and moderate risk waste. This sections contains four subsections: 1) Pollution Prevention; 2) Compliance and Compliance Assistance; 3) Permitting & Corrective Action; and 4) Small Volume Hazardous Materials and Wastes (Moderate Risk Waste). The first three subsections relate to work done by Ecology’s Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program with generators of regulated hazardous waste. The fourth subsection, small volume hazardous materials and wastes, represents work done by the Waste 2 Resources Program, the Hazardous Waste and Toxic Reduction Program, and local governments.
- Section 2, Managing Solid Waste and Materials, deals with the wide variety of solid waste and materials work, including organic materials. This section contains three subsections: 1) Solid Waste System Issues; 2) Solid Waste Materials & Infrastructure; and 3) Organic Materials & Infrastructure. The first section deals with overarching issues that affect how we work to include: statewide goals, financing mechanisms, and planning and grants. The second subsection deals with solid waste management from waste reduction through safe disposal, with significant focus on recycling and reuse. The third section covers issues with management of organic wastes, including food, yard waste, and biosolids. The Waste 2 Resources Program works on this section, in collaboration with local governments, solid waste companies, and other partners.
- Section 3, Reducing Impacts of Materials and Products, focuses on improving materials that eventually become components of products or waste, by focusing on what is used and produced.
- Section 4, Measuring Progress, addresses data needs across the work of the plan.

- [Section 5, Providing Outreach and Information](#), focuses on outreach and information needs across the work of the plan to a variety of audiences. Both the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program and the Waste 2 Resources Program work on plan sections 3, 4, and 5. Some actions are done separately and some have shared aspects between the two programs. In addition, we partner with our stakeholders on this work.

### **Key Content Changes:**

While the structure of the 2015 State Plan update is different, the key concepts in solid and hazardous waste management are still addressed. However, the plan does include some additional concepts, at the request of stakeholders and to better represent the work being done in the state.

- Environmental Justice
- More focus on recycling, including sham recycling
- More focus on reduction, both of waste and of toxics
- Biosolids management
- Outreach and information

### **Summary of the Plan Update Process:**

We started the plan update process in July 2013, with an assessment of progress on the 2009 plan, and considered what work had been completed and what work needed to be carried on or adjusted. Both a [summary status report](#) and a [detailed status report](#) are available. We also reached out to all our stakeholders to tell them we were updating the state plan in order to build a [listserv](#) to communicate with them.

Our next step was to gather input from stakeholders on what they wanted in the plan update, before we drafted any content. We developed an [introductory presentation](#), and through multiple meetings and an on-line survey gathered input from local governments, state governments, businesses, and environmental organizations across the state on what they wanted to see in the state plan update. We received more than a hundred pages of comments from 84 sources. Both a [concise comment summary](#) and a [detailed comment summary](#) are available on the [plan update website](#).

We used the input from this initial round of stakeholder input to create a [first draft](#), which was circulated for public input in August and September 2014. A [summary of comments on the first draft](#) is available on the [plan update website](#). We heard from 27 individuals representing a variety of stakeholder roles. Comments were favorable overall, with many helpful suggestions both for content and wording revisions.

We used comments on the first draft to write a second draft, which was again circulated for stakeholder review in January and February 2015. We heard from 29 individuals representing similar stakeholder roles as with the first draft. Comments were again favorable, with few substantive changes asked for at this stage. A summary of comments on the second draft is available on the [plan update website](#). Comments on the second draft were used to create this final plan update.

The process and documents were communicated via the listserv and the [plan update website](#), as well as notification to key groups and in available newsletters. Staff, management, and the state Waste 2 Resources Advisory Committee also provided input at key stages.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries

of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposed State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan 2015 Update applies to the entire state of Washington. The plan sets direction (as opposed to requirements) for:

- Ecology and other appropriate state agency staff.
- Local governments, as they update and implement their local solid and hazardous waste plans.
- Businesses, especially regulated hazardous waste generators.
- Pertinent non-government organizations.
- Other interested parties.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

This section is not applicable for this non-project action and has been removed.

## **C. Signature**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee: Polly Zehm

Position and Agency/Organization: Deputy Director

Date Submitted: June 4, 2015

## **D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions**

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The 2015 State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan Update: Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics, is a blueprint for a statewide strategy for reducing wastes and toxic substances,



decreasing waste generation, and properly managing any waste and toxics that remain. Successful implementation of the plan update is intended to decrease harmful discharges and emissions.

The plan will not increase discharges to water, emissions to air production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances, or production of noise to the environment. The plan *might indirectly* encourage some recycling or composting infrastructure, for example, that would have some local impacts. Any such projects would undergo a SEPA specific to them and be subject to any other applicable state and local requirements.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

The 2015 Plan Update is comprised of goals and actions directed at reducing wastes and toxics and properly managing any that remain. This includes:

- Reducing hazardous material used by businesses and industries, properly managing any hazardous materials that are used, and cleaning up contamination that has occurred.
- Reducing waste, increasing reuse and recycling of materials, and improving recycling and composting operations.
- Addressing litter and marine debris.
- Making sure waste handling facilities are meeting operational requirements.
- Promoting the formation and use of less toxic, less wasteful products.
- Studying chemicals of concern in order to reduce toxics used in products which threaten human and environmental health.
- Using data to measure our progress on these efforts and better inform our work.
- Communicating with those we work with as well as the public in order to advance the work in the plan.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Refer to response number 1. This plan update will help to conserve natural resources and reduce toxics, which will be beneficial to plants, animals, fish and marine life.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Refer to response number 1. This plan update will help to conserve natural resources and reduce the use of energy.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Refer to response number 1. This plan update will help to conserve natural resources and reduce toxics, which will be beneficial to environmentally sensitive areas.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Refer to response number 1. This plan update should have no effect on shoreline use. It does encourage appropriate solid waste infrastructure, such as composting and recycling facilities, that are consistent and compatible with existing zoning and local plans.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Refer to response number 1. A key partner in the plan update is the solid waste collection companies, many of whom are regulated by the WA Utility and Transportation Commission (WUTC). The plan calls for increased collection efficiencies and work with the WUTC to improve services, including outreach. Other than that, this plan update should have no effect on transportation and public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

This state plan is not in conflict with any laws or requirements.

This plan update is in accordance with statutory directions ([RCW 70.95](#) and [RCW 70.105](#)) that require state solid and hazardous waste plans and establish a waste management hierarchy.

EPA has solid waste planning requirements in [RCRA Subtitle D Part 256](#) from 1979 that are generally considered out of date. Instead of changing this law, EPA wrote guidance documents (*[Beyond RCRA: Waste and Materials Management in the Year 2020](#)* [2003]; *[Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead](#)* [2009]; and *[RCRA's Critical Mission & The Path Forward](#)* [2014]) and otherwise promoted sustainable materials management for state plans since 2003. This plan is in accordance with that guidance as well as EPA and Ecology's Public Partnership Agreement (PPA).

Local governments are encouraged, but are not required, to coordinate with the state plan for their local planning.